



MONTANA STATE PRISON HEALTH SERVICES OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

Procedure No.: MSP HS A-08.1	Subject: Housing of Inmates with Identified Mental Disorders
Reference: NCCHC Standard P-A-08, 2014	Page 1 of 1 and one attachment
Effective Date: November 1, 2010	Revised: June 1, 2017
Signature / Title: /s/ Tricia Ayers-Weiss, CSD Mental Health Bureau Chief	
Signature / Title: /s/ Medical Director	

I. Purpose:

To provide guidelines and procedures to ensure qualified mental health professionals communicate with non-clinical facility staff any significant mental health needs that must be considered in classification and housing decisions in order to preserve the mental health functioning of that inmate and the safety and security of that inmate, other inmates, and/or staff.

To ensure the appropriate housing, classification, and management of inmates with identified mental health needs and restore or maintain the inmate's activities of daily living to the greatest extent possible in the least restrictive environment that also ensures the safety of the inmate, other inmates, staff, and overall facility operations.

II. Definitions: none

III. Procedures:

A. Diagnostic and Intake Classification

1. All arriving inmates will receive a Level 1 assessment by mental health staff to identify inmates with mental health needs which will be considered during the classification and housing assignment process
2. Inmates whose initial Level 1 assessment is positive for mental health conditions are referred to a qualified mental health professional for a Level 2 mental health evaluation
3. Mental health staff will document identified mental health needs on the MSP Treatment Plan and will include housing recommendations based on the Level 1 assessment and Level 2 evaluation for inmates who are chronically mentally ill, suicidal, homicidal, intellectually or developmentally disabled, or whose mental health needs limit the inmate's ability to perform activities of daily living in social, occupation, and/or treatment settings
4. Diagnostic and intake unit staff involved in the initial classification of inmates will review all specific recommendations provided by mental health staff on the MSP Treatment Plan
5. In all cases involving the classification of inmates with identified mental health needs, appropriate placement options will be considered, including transfer to a hospital or the facility's mental health unit, should one exist

B. Reclassification

1. When an inmate requires reclassification due to disciplinary or other reasons, the personnel responsible for reclassification will include an assessment of mental health needs on the "Assessment of Needs" form. Mental health professionals will be available to consult with classification personnel regarding placement needs.
2. In non-emergent circumstances, no inmate shall be classified or reclassified to a higher level of security based upon his disorder or disability or upon behavior that is a direct result of his disorder

or disability until a prompt and appropriate evaluation is completed by a qualified mental health professional

- a. To the greatest extent possible, and in non-emergent circumstances, inmates with mental health needs should be housed in the least restricted environment available that restores or maintain the inmate's activities of daily living and also ensures the safety of the inmate, other inmates, staff, and overall facility operations.
3. No inmate shall be placed in pre-hearing confinement or placed in locked housing based solely upon his disorder or disability or upon behavior that is a direct product of his disorder or disability, unless, after a prompt and appropriate evaluation by a qualified mental health professional it is determined the inmate presents such an immediate and serious danger that there is no reasonable alternative
4. A qualified mental health professional will attend weekly Administrative Review Committee meetings to ensure that mental health recommendations are made and considered during the reclassification process for inmates with identified mental health needs
5. Staff will comply with DOC policy 4.5.21 "Locked Housing Offender Health Assessments and Services", MSP Procedure 3.5.1 "Locked Housing Unit Operations" and HS E-09.0 "Mental Health Evaluations of Inmates in Segregation" regarding lock housing placement of inmates with mental health needs.

IV. Closing:

Questions concerning this operational procedure will be directed to the Mental Health Services Manager or Clinical Services Division Mental Health Bureau Chief.

V. Attachments:

Montana State Prison Special Needs Treatment Plan

attachment A

